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**SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS
IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

January 1986

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

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PREFACE

This chronology is organized by region, country, and date of event. The date of event is sometimes difficult to determine because it varies from source to source. Some sources cite the actual date of the incident whereas others appear to use the official news release dateline. When possible, the actual date of the occurrence is listed.

Analysts contributing to this chronology are LaVerle Berry, Robert Handloff, Mary Louise Harmon, R. Thomas Lenaghan, Kenneth Liberstein, and Rachel Warner.

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East/Central Africa

Angola/Zaire

30/12/86 Two Angolan aircraft, including an Antonov-26 belonging to the Angolan Armed Forces and a Lockheed 382, make emergency landings at N'Djili Airport, Kinshasa, on the evening of 30 December. The crews of the two aircraft maintain that bad weather forced the landings. The Lockheed, with one passenger aboard, is permitted to leave the following day; the 16 soldiers on the Antonov are detained for questioning. These incidents follow by less than a month the forced landing of another Angolan military aircraft carrying 44 Cuban soldiers at an airstrip some 300 kilometers southeast of Kinshasa. The Cubans, who destroyed the aircraft, were later questioned in Kinshasa before being returned to Angola on 23 December.

Uganda

25/01/86 After 2 days of artillery bombardment and heavy street fighting, the National Resistance Army (NRA), led by Yoweri Museveni, takes control of the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The fall of Kampala comes less than 5 weeks after Museveni signed a peace agreement with the former military government headed by General Tito Okello. Museveni never made any attempt to implement the peace agreement, claiming that it was unworkable because of continued atrocities against civilians on the part of government soldiers. The fighting in Kampala is the latest round in nearly 2 decades of violence in Uganda, during which an estimated half million Ugandans have been killed. Much of the violence has grown out of animosity between northern and southern ethnic groups.

28/01/86 The Kenya Times reports that a National Government Council is being established which will comprise about 40 percent military and 60 percent civilian representatives. A report on the formation of the council is contained in a special message to Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi from Ugandan President Museveni. Museveni also reports that his forces are moving towards Jinja and that 5,000 Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA) soldiers had surrendered.

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29/01/86 Museveni is sworn in as the new President of Uganda. The installation comes 5 years after Museveni took his followers into the bush in his quest to overthrow the government of former President Milton Obote, and 3 days after he dissolved the country's ruling Military Council headed by General Okello. Museveni calls for a broad-based government after consultation with all parties and declares that in the meantime, the interim administration that has been running the rebel-controlled area of southwestern Uganda will administer the Kampala area. He promises a return to parliamentary democracy but gives no timetable for elections.

30/01/86 President Museveni names Samson Kisekka, a 73-year-old physician, as his prime minister. He asks soldiers of the deposed government to surrender, promising that they will not be harmed. Museveni also acknowledges that the NRA received arms and other assistance from Libya, but denies that he is in any way a "tool" of Libyan leader Qadhafi. Museveni's forces control about two-thirds of Uganda, soldiers of the ousted government having fled to their homelands in the north of the country. General Okello is reported to have escaped to the southern Sudanese city of Juba along with several of his ministers.

31/01/86 President Museveni declares that the country's constitution must be revised and the army rebuilt before elections can be held, a process that may take 3 to 5 years. In the meantime, he foresees a coalition government in which the NRA will remain dominant.

Zaire

18/01/86 Tshisekedi Wa Mulumba and Kanana Tsongo, two leaders of Zaire's banned opposition Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) party, are sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and fined by the State Security Court for "offenses against the head of state." Tshisekedi was

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arrested in October 1985 for having made statements to a French reporter, accusing Zairian soldiers of molesting UDPS partisans. Kanana was charged with calling President Mobutu a cannibal. Other leading activists of the UDPS are free, having received pardons from President Mobutu.

Horn of Africa

Djibouti/Somalia/Ethiopia

12/01/86 A bomb explodes in a ward building of the country's sole party, the People's Rally for Progress (RPP). This attack is the first to occur in the country since that at Khor-Anghar in 1979. The bombing occurs on the eve of the first summit of the six heads of the member states of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought Control and Development in East Africa (GADD). Sources in the capital believe that this attack may have been committed by an unnamed Somali opposition movement to protest secret mediation attempts currently underway in Djibouti between Ethiopian and Somali authorities.

Ethiopia

16/01/86 The Soviet Union signs an agreement with Ethiopia, extending for 1 year two earlier agreements on the provision of Soviet transportation and medical equipment, as well as experts in support of the aid and resettlement program. In the transportation sector, the agreement covers the continued use of 12 aircraft, 4 helicopters, and 300 trucks, including fuel and drivers.

15/12/86 An Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) spokesman announces that special commando units carried out a 30-minute sabotage operation in Asmara, during which they destroyed 30 trucks. It is the second attack in nearly 10 months inside Asmara; last March the guerrillas penetrated

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the air force base there and claim to have destroyed 33 planes.

Ethiopia/Somalia/Djibouti

17/01/86 Ethiopian President Mengistu and Somali President Barre meet for the first time in 10 years to discuss the disputed Ogaden region, over which they fought a border war from 1977 to 1978. The meeting takes place in Djibouti and is mediated by Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. The leaders of both countries have recently expressed a willingness to improve relations, today's meeting being the first step in this process.

Sudan

06/01/86 US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker arrives in Khartoum for a 1-day official visit with General Siwardahab and members of the ruling Transitional Military Council. He conveys to Sudanese officials US concern over the growing Libyan presence in Khartoum and the likelihood of terrorist acts in Sudan. The American envoy also stresses that Sudan's increased contact with the Libyan regime in the context of its good neighborly foreign policy would have negative repercussions on US-Sudanese relations, especially on military and economic assistance packages for the upcoming fiscal year.

11/01/86 Based on recent unsuccessful exploratory drilling, the American-owned Chevron Corporation suspends further petroleum-related activity in western Sudan. Since offensives in Upper Nile and Bahr Ghazal Provinces by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in 1983, Chevron has concentrated its efforts in the western part of the country. The absence of petroleum discoveries is a significant setback for the Sudanese economy, which is in urgent need of energy sources to lower the country's import fuel costs and revitalize production.

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19/01/86 Thousands of Sudanese sign up at voter registration centers across the country. The national elections, expected to take place in April 1986 despite the weak position of the Siwardahab government and the instability in the south, will be the first to take place since 1968. Sudan is attaching major importance to this exercise of democratic principles, particularly in the wake of the dictatorial rule of former President Numeiri.

Indian Ocean Islands

Mauritius

13/01/86 A new cabinet is formed by Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth following the resignation of four ministers. The government has been recently shaken by the arrest of four Mauritian parliamentarians near the end of December in Amsterdam for drug trafficking, the resignation of the four ministers, and the resignation of one of the principal leaders of the majority Mauritian Socialist Party (PSM), Harish Boodhoo, from the party's management body. The formation of the new cabinet seems to have relaxed the political situation.

15/12/86 According to an official announcement, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, governor general of Mauritius and prime minister for most of the country's years of independence, died today at the age of 85. Three days of national mourning are declared.

Sahel

Burkina/Mali

09/01/86 Seventeen Burkinabe prisoners-of-war are exchanged in Bamako for three Malian soldiers taken in the Christmas border conflict. The exchange is supervised by the International Red Cross. Of the 17 repatriated Burkinabe, 3 are members of Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) and the rest are regular army personnel. The three Malians released by the Burkinabe are an armored squadron lieutenant, a soldier and a secretary. This exchange, together with the Agreement on Non-Aggression and Defense Aid (ANAD), signals a definitive end to the recent hostilities between Mali and Burkina.

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18/01/86 The ANAD heads of state end their summit meeting in the Ivory Coast with an agreement that calls for the withdrawal of all troops from the disputed region on the border between Mali and Burkina. Malian President Traore and Burkinabe President Sankara exchange warm embraces prior to leaving the Ivory Coast. The agreement represents a diplomatic setback for Mali, since its troops had succeeded in occupying almost all of the disputed Agacher region and will be the only ones to withdraw.

Chad/Niger

27/12/85 Chad and Niger strengthen relations during a meeting held in Nguigmi, Niger. Chadian President Habre is seeking to consolidate relations with countries that share common borders with Chad in an attempt to foster peaceful coexistence in the region as a bulwark against further Libyan intervention. The recent reinforcement of Libyan troops and materiel in northern Chad could be the prelude to renewed military activity in the area.

Mali

00/12/85 Tensions rise in Malian scholastic circles as discontentment with the government over unpaid salaries causes the teachers' union, the National Union for Education and Culture (SNEC), to become increasingly militant. President Traore accuses the SNEC leaders of acting in concert with Burkina on the eve of the Agacher border conflict to destabilize his regime. Traore's problems with the teachers and dissatisfaction among functionaries in general, together with the Burkinabe border flare-up, leave him in a potentially vulnerable position.

Southern Africa

Angola

29/01/86 National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) leader Jonas Savimbi begins a 10-day visit to the United States to seek military aid for UNITA's struggle against the

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Marxist dos Santos regime. The debate in the US Congress centers around the fact that UNITA relies heavily on military aid from South Africa, causing concern that US involvement as an arms supplier to UNITA may hinder negotiations for a diplomatic solution between Angola and South Africa for Namibia's independence, and the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and of Cuban troops from Angola.

Angola/South Africa

09/01/86 Angolan Army sources claim that South African troops have moved 150 kilometers inside Angolan territory and kidnapped two Angolan militia members. According to these sources, South African forces have been advancing throughout the week and have now reached Cunene Province.

Angola/Zaire

30/12/86 Two Angolan aircraft, including an Antonov-26 belonging to the Angolan Armed Forces and a Lockheed 382, make emergency landings at N'Djili Airport, Kinshasa, on the evening of 30 December. The crews of the two aircraft maintain that bad weather forced the landings. The Lockheed, with one passenger aboard, is permitted to leave the following day; the 16 soldiers on the Antonov are detained for questioning. These incidents follow by less than a month the forced landing of another Angolan military aircraft carrying 44 Cuban soldiers at an airstrip some 300 kilometers southeast of Kinshasa. The Cubans, who destroyed the aircraft, were later questioned in Kinshasa before being returned to Angola on 23 December.

Lesotho/South Africa

20/01/86 Officers led by General Justin Lekhanya overthrow the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan, who had ruled for almost 2 decades in an increasingly autocratic manner. The coup comes during the third week of an economic blockade imposed by South Africa because of Chief Jonathan's resistance to South African demands for curbs on the presence of African National Congress (ANC) members in Lesotho and Soviet bloc embassies in the capital, Maseru. The coup is also the result of the military's opposition to

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Chief Jonathan's ties to the Soviet bloc nations and a variety of internal conflicts which were heightened by the South African blockade. The new military government announces that it will eject South African political fugitives out of the country, but will not hand them over to Pretoria. Relations with South Africa are crucial since the country's economic reliance on South Africa is nearly total.

Malawi

02/01/86 President Banda dissolves his 13-member cabinet for no stated reason. As a result, all ministerial portfolios revert to Banda. The cabinet was last dissolved in June 1985 and reconstituted 2 weeks later with minor changes. It is likely that the cabinet changes are an attempt by Banda to prevent too great a consolidation of power in the hands of any one minister, especially in view of succession speculation.

Mozambique

08/01/86 Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) guerrillas sabotage the railroad linking the capital, Maputo, to Swaziland, halting service on the line. RENAMO has frequently targeted the country's transportation networks as part of the organization's general strategy of disruption in the countryside.

28/01/86 A RENAMO spokesman claims that guerrillas killed 53 Zimbabwean soldiers out of a force of 2,000 which attacked the RENAMO-held coastal town of Marromeu on 26 January. It is not clear, however, whether the Zimbabwean forces, which have been assisting the Mozambican Army in its fight against RENAMO, had driven the guerrillas from the town or if they had left of their own accord. Marromeu, located north of the strategic port of Beira, is the site of a major army base and the country's largest sugar refinery.

Namibia

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26/01/86 Police arrest 58 people in Katutura township near Windhoek during a festival to mark the United Nations year of peace. Police claim the arrests were made after a number of political speeches, constituting an illegal gathering. Among those arrested under charges of violation of the Riotous Assemblies Act is SWAPO member Anton Lubowski.

Namibia/Botswana

13/01/86 According to the commanding officer of the South-West Africa Territory Force, Major-General George Meiring, Namibian security forces are investigating reports that South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) guerrillas had assembled inside Botswana, close to the border with Namibia, in preparation for their annual seasonal strike. Botswana has followed a policy of neutrality and to date has not allowed SWAPO to establish bases inside the country. But if these reports are verified, a SWAPO presence in Botswana will indicate a marked shift in Botswana's policy on southern African liberation movements.

South Africa

01/01/86 At least 10 blacks are killed in tribal fighting in Moutsie, where officials have been trying to redesignate the area as part of the KwaNdebele homeland. The fighting started when Ndebele people, who sought to move into the Moutsie district to enforce the official edict, faced resistance by the local Pedi tribe. The killings reflect the tensions inspired by apartheid policies which divide the nation's black majority of 23 million into 10 homelands based on tribal affiliation.

05/01/86 Police throw tear gas bombs into buses during the funerals of 4 riot victims in Soweto; 50 black mourners are hurt while struggling to escape. Police report that at least six persons died in violence elsewhere, including two armed men killed by security forces who seized an arms cache in Bophuthatswana, and three blacks who were burned to death by other blacks. Also, a black is shot to death after a police patrol was attacked with a gasoline bomb in the tribal area of Moutse, 100 miles northeast of Johannesburg.

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Southern Africa

South Africa

06/01/86 The country's second largest mining company, Gencor, dismisses 20,000 nonwhite workers after they refused to call off a strike. The mass dismissal, which amounts to two-thirds of the platinum company's work force, is one of the biggest in recent years. Gencor officials threaten to dismiss the remaining 10,000 workers if they do not return to their jobs. Most of the miners, unrepresented by a labor union, work in the nominally independent homeland of Bophuthatswana which does not recognize South Africa's powerful National Union of Mineworkers. The dismissals fit a pattern in labor relations in South African mines in which the law has allowed employers to dismiss strikers engaged in wildcat and some other stoppages. The work stoppage at Gencor had been called over wages and working conditions on 1 January.

06/01/86 Residents of Moutse Reserve north of Pretoria claim that 89 villagers were arrested and that armed police have been laying siege for 6 days to hundreds of others who fled into surrounding bush country after the killing of 2 policemen. They also claim that about 257 residents of the reserve were locked in a hall on New Year's Day and tortured by members of a tribal militia with the participation of the chief minister and a cabinet member of the KwaNdebele homeland. The atmosphere in Moutse Reserve has been tense since Pretoria's decision to force the annexation of the reserve, with its 120,000 inhabitants, into the neighboring KwaNdebele homeland. Violence linked to the forced incorporation has led to 21 deaths, including those of the 2 policemen.

13/01/86 The body of United Democratic Front (UDF) leader Ampie Mayisa is found in Leandra in eastern Transvaal days before he was to have met with US Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker. Mayisa had been stabbed and burned. Anglican Bishop Simeon Nkoane, who had arranged the meeting, blames the Zulu-based Inkatha movement for the murder.

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- 21/01/86 Two white policemen are stabbed and beaten to death by a crowd of blacks near Bekkersdal township, 25 miles southwest of Johannesburg, when they investigate reports of an illegal meeting. The slaying of the two officers represents the first deaths of white policemen in over 16 months of political violence in South Africa which has claimed more than 1,050 lives, the bulk of them black.
- 23/01/86 Renewed tribal fighting between Zulus and Pondos in the Umbogintwini area south of Durban results in the deaths of at least 30 people and the burning of hundreds of shanty homes. The battle, fought with homemade shotguns, spears, clubs, and knives, appears to be a continuation of similar clashes between the two tribes last month that left about 60 dead. These clashes are thought to be caused by competition for land, water, and jobs between the Pondos, who under South African law are supposed to live in the nominally independent Transkei homeland, and the Zulus, who regard the Umbogintwini area as their fiefdom.
- 28/01/86 Many of the country's black high school students, who have been boycotting classes for almost 2 years, return to school under the surveillance of army and police patrols. The boycott had been instigated by the Soweto Parents' Crisis Committee and endorsed by the African National Congress (ANC) to demand the release of detained student activists, the ending of the ban on the Congress of South African Students, the removal of troops from black townships, and the lifting of South Africa's partial state of emergency imposed last 21 July. The students state that they will resume their boycott at the end of March if the demands are not met. It is believed by South African commentators that the return of the students to their classes signifies the assignment of responsibility for a more durable settlement of the country's black educational crisis by black negotiators.

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South Africa/Botswana

04/01/86 Two people are killed and two injured when their pickup truck hits a landmine in the Ellisras area of northwestern Transvaal near the border with Botswana. South African troops seal off the remote farming area. Foreign Affairs Pik Botha warns Botswana that appropriate measures will be taken if it allows its territory to be used for crossborder attacks by ANC guerrillas.

Zimbabwe

20/01/86 The visiting President of Iran, Ali Khamenei, refuses to attend a state banquet in his honor because women are seated at the head table and wine is served--actions which contradict his view of Islamic propriety. The Mugabe government, commenting on the incident, insists that women are entitled to equal standing with men, a principle on which the government will not compromise.

23/01/86 The House of Assembly votes in favor of a 6-month extension of the state of emergency. Speaking during the debate, Assemblyman Nkala notes that 103 people have been killed by Zimbabwe African People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA) guerrillas during the last 6 months, and during the same period the guerrillas committed 57 rapes and more than 260 armed robberies. Just in the past few days guerrillas killed two farmers in Matabeleland, bringing to four the number of farmers killed by ZIPRA in the past 3 months.

West Africa

Guinea Bissau

30/01/86 Seven members of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea Bissau (PAIGC) Central Committee are dismissed and placed in detention for being implicated in the failed coup attempt of 7 November 1985. Among those detained are Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Buotan Batcha, Major Benghate na Beate, Lieutenant Colonel Fore na Bitna, Border Guard Commander Colonel Lamine Cisse, and Air Forces Commander Colonel Pedro Ramos. This latest move by President Vieira is meant to purge the Central Committee

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of all supporters of former Vice President Correia who was the main instigator of the November coup attempt.

Ivory Coast

03/01/86 Henri Konan Bedie, often named as a possible successor to current President Houphouet-Boigny, is reelected President of the National Assembly, receiving 156 of 173 ballots cast. Eight votes are cast in favor of Denis Gnassou Ossey of Agboville. According to recently enacted constitutional reforms, the President of the National Assembly will serve as interim president for a period of 45 to 60 days should the presidency become vacant for whatever reason. While Bedie's election does not guarantee that he will succeed Houphouet-Boigny, it does give him a substantial advantage. At the same time, Bedie becomes an obvious political target, which sustains the ambitions of other rival candidates.

Liberia

02/01/86 The Chief of the Israeli Border Police, Major General Ganaz Shaad, ends a 5-day visit to Liberia during which he held numerous meetings with Liberian defense and security officials. Shaad expressed hope that the Israeli Government will assist in providing additional facilities for the National Police Training Academy. Liberian Immigration Commissioner Sharwin Teh and Police Director Wilfred Clark each said that they were expecting increased assistance from the Israeli Government. With Liberian-US relations at their present tender state, President Doe prefers to look toward the Israelis to help him shore up the deficiencies in the Liberian security apparatus that were exposed by the November 1985 coup attempt.

06/01/86 Eighteen politicians and journalists, who were arrested after the November 1985 coup attempt, are released from detention as General Samuel K. Doe is sworn into office to begin his term as Liberia's first popularly elected president. Members of the principal opposition party, the Liberian Action Party (LAP), have refused to take their seats in the new legislative assembly, charging that the results of October election were falsified. The inclusion of

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LAP Secretary General Byron Tarr in the list of those released represents an attempt by Doe to appease the LAP into taking its seats. However, this is not likely as long as LAP presidential candidate Jackson Doe and party leader Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf remain in jail.

24/01/86 LAP Executive Council member Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf is formally charged with treason after being held in prison since the failed November 1985 coup attempt. Charges are also expected to be brought against Jackson Doe, the LAP presidential candidate in the October 1985 election, who was also arrested in the aftermath of the November coup attempt. The fact that the government is prepared to put Johnson-Sirleaf and Jackson Doe on trial quiets fears that they have already been killed.

Nigeria

31/12/85 Either seven or eight of the military officers accused of recently plotting to overthrow the Babangida government die in an airplane crash from Lagos to Makurdi, where most of the plotters were stationed. The victims were passengers in a Hawker-Siddeley HS-125 which was one of several aircraft in the presidential fleet. The circumstances surrounding the crash are yet unknown. Last month the Babangida government uncovered a plot involving 14 military officers who were planning to sabotage Babangida's personal airplane.

13/01/86 Nigerian leader Babangida sets 1 October 1990 as the target date for his government to hand over power to a civilian regime. He declares that he will allow his fellow Nigerians to decide the form of government they want. Babangida's announcement is made in Abuja during ceremonies inaugurating a 17-man panel charged with conducting a national debate on the form of the successor regime and how that succession should take place in a country that has seen 5 successful military coups in the past 20 years.

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14/01/86 Nigeria is admitted as a full member of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) during an ICO ministerial conference in Morocco. The announcement has exacerbated tensions between Nigeria's Muslim and Christian populations, and may have been partly responsible for the cancellation of a speech in Nigeria by American Muslim leader Louis Farrakahn. President Ibrahim Babangida of Nigeria has vowed not to allow the emergence of a theocratic state, notwithstanding growing pressure from Nigeria's Muslim population.

Togo

27/12/85 Security personnel defuse a bomb found at the University of Benin in Lome, where a series of explosions have taken place in recent weeks. The discovery of the device, allegedly by a maintenance woman at the university, follows an extensive campaign aimed at increasing public awareness of the danger of bombs to personal and state security. The most recent explosion on 4 December 1985 killed two people.